



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUR WOMEN INDICTED FOLLOWING ARREST AT BUS STATION, DISCOVERY OF 12 LISTERINE BOTTLES CONTAINING PCP

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that four California women were indicted by a federal grand jury today for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than one kilogram of phencyclidine (PCP).

Tanisha Walker, 27, **Tiffany Gatewood**, 20, and **Leah Leake**, 24, all of Long Beach, Calif., and **Victoria Smith**, 19, of Los Angeles, Calif., were charged in three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Walker**, **Gatewood**, **Leake** and **Smith** conspired to possess with intent to distribute one kilogram or more of PCP between Dec. 1, 2004, and July 9, 2005.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Leake** and **Smith** aided and abetted each other and others in the possession with intent to distribute one kilogram or more of PCP on July 8, 2005.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Walker** and **Gatewood** aided and abetted each other and others in the possession with intent to distribute one kilogram or more of PCP on July 8 and 9, 2005.

Today's indictment replaces three criminal complaints that were filed in federal court on July 8 and 9, 2005, in Kansas City. The criminal complaints were filed following each of the co-defendants' arrest at the Greyhound bus station in Kansas City. **Walker** and **Gatewood** were charged in separate criminal complaints on July 8 and 9, 2005, respectively, while **Leake** and **Smith** were charged in a single criminal complaint on July 8, 2005.

Leake and **Smith** were first arrested in the early morning hours of July 8, 2005. **Walker** was arrested later in the morning on July 8, 2005, and **Gatewood** was arrested on July 9, 2005. The co-defendants were arrested after exiting busses that had traveled to Kansas City from Los Angeles.

According to affidavits filed in support of the criminal complaints, law enforcement officers confronted each co-defendant after they were noticed wearing baggy clothing and frequently touching their stomachs as if they were adjusting something located near their mid-sections. Officers also noticed a strong chemical odor emanating from some of the defendants, the affidavits state.

Upon confronting each of the women, law enforcement officers obtained consent to search the co-defendants. The searches revealed that **Smith** was carrying two 32-ounce Listerine bottles containing PCP and that **Walker** and **Gatewood** each were carrying four 32-ounce Listerine bottles containing PCP. The bottles of PCP were wrapped in plastic and duct tape and concealed beneath girdles that were being worn by the co-defendants.

At the time law enforcement officers confronted **Smith** and **Leake**, **Leake** had nothing on her person and was released, the affidavit states. However, later in the morning, law enforcement officers approached **Leake** again and this time were given consent to search her luggage. The search revealed two 32-ounce Listerine bottles containing PCP, the affidavit states.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney P.J. O'Connor. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow